THE APPROVAL MATRIX

Our deliberately oversimplified guide to who falls where on our taste hierarchies.

HIGHBROW

Trump loves his magic pardon wand. He might even use it on **himself** someday!

... Meanwhile, he and his attorney general reportedly won't utter each other's **name** aloud.

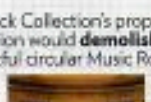
Van Gogh's **sunflower** paintings are wilting! According to new research, his yellow paint is fading to brown.

Why do all these **billionaires** think they should be the next president? Because this one has worked out so well?

The top-100 **highest-paid** athletes on the *Forbes* list are all men. No. 1: Floyd Mayweather, a boxer with a history of domestic violence, too.

Bill Clinton **really** shouldn't have been caught off-guard by that Monica Lewinsky question.

The Frick Collection's proposed expansion would **demolish** the delightful circular Music Room.



DESPICABLE

EPA chief Scott Pruitt tried to get his wife a Chick-fil-A franchise. Maybe a **strip** mine instead?

Who thinks the Supreme Court's ruling in the Colorado "gay wedding cake" case **won't** encourage homophobes to let their freak flags fly?

Facebook kept letting device-makers (including in China) **fish around** in your data, even after other developers were shut out ...

BRILLIANT

Lauren Yee's **slam dunk**, *The Great Leap*, at Atlantic Theater Company.

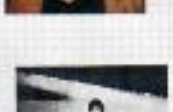
Kate Spade.

Kudos, part three of Rachel Cusk's autofictional trilogy (spoiler: Faye remains **disenchanted**).

The **breathtaking** small survey of Aboriginal art "Beyond the Veil" at Olsen Gruin gallery.

Joseph Keckler's **opera**-based cabaret show for the ironist aspiring to sincerity, at Joe's Pub.

Rough Animals, Rae DeBianco's debut novel, featuring a well-armed, **feral** 14-year-old girl.



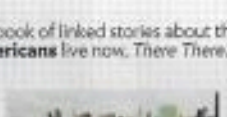
The queer art collective Fierce Pussy takes over the façade of the Leslie-Lohman Museum. **Meow!**

African artist Bodys Isek Kingelez's exhibit of **fantasy** urban maquettes, "City Dreams," at MoMA.

Tommy Orange's book of linked stories about the way **Native Americans** live now, *There There*.

... But at least it's ditching the "Trending" section, a.k.a. the **hoax**-promotion machine.

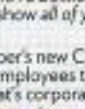
Robin de Jesús, **fabulous** and poignant as Emory, in *The Boys in the Band*.



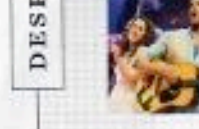
Artist Xaviera Simmons's **canoe** installation Converse, in LIC.

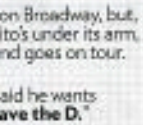
Escape to Margaritaville fails on Broadway, but, **hungover** with a bottle of Tito's under its arm, swears it'll show *all of you* and goes on tour.

Uber's new CEO said he wants employees to **"have the D."** That's corporate empowerment.



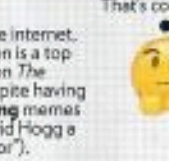
According to the internet, Garrett Yrigoyen is a top contender on *The Bachelorette*, despite having "liked" **right-wing** memes (one called David Hogg a "crisis actor").

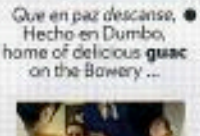




Que en paz descanse, Hecho en Dumbo, home of delicious **guac** on the Bowery ...

Rita Ora **smooches** a hologram of Cardi B in her new "Girls" video. *That* should make up for the Supreme Court setback to gay rights.

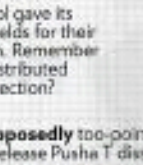




The trailer for Matthew McConaughey's war-on-drugs film *White Boy Rick* makes the crack epidemic look like an awesome **roller-skating** party.

A Pennsylvania school gave its students bulletproof shields for their eighth-grade graduation. Remember when schools just distributed **condoms** for protection?

Drake's **supposedly** too-pointedly-critical-to-release Pusha T diss track.



A guard at Fort Hamilton in Brooklyn called ICE on a **pizza**-delivery guy who couldn't prove he was a citizen.

IHOP announces it's changing its name to IHOb, callously disregarding everything **pancakes** have done for them.

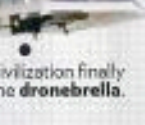
A$AP Rocky ft. Frank Ocean's **contemplative** "Purity."

Human civilization finally invents the **dronebrella**.

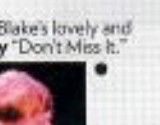
... Hey, the 1990s are so **on-trend**, maybe someone should bring back Marion's Continental, which used to be there?

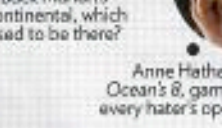
Anne Hathaway **steals** *Ocean's 8*, gamely sending up every hater's opinion about her.

James Blake's lovely and **mopey** "Don't Miss It."



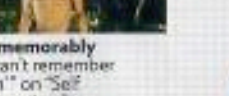
Reese Witherspoon puts on the same sequined pink bikini that got Elle into Harvard to announce *Legally Blonde 3*. **Totally.**





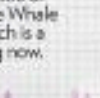
Boogie **memorably** sings he "can't remember nothin'" on "Self Destruction."

Bond with Dad over a bottle of **Fudgie** the Whale beer, which is a real thing now.



Candy-maker Necco is saved, so Valentine's Candy Hearts and Candy Buttons live on, **gross** as ever.

JetBlue allows **miniature horses** onboard as emotional-support animals (along with dogs and cats).



LOWBROW

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